

GLOSSARY

Aggregate: Sand and gravel.

Alluvium: Sediment derived from the erosion of mountains. Typically ranging greatly in physical characteristics.

Aquifer: Any saturated permeable geologic unit which under normal conditions can transmit significant quantities of water.

A-weighted decibels: The weighted decibel scale that best approximates the response of the human ear to noise.

Backfill: The material used to refill a ditch or excavation, or the process of doing so.

Bed: The smallest division of a stratified geologic series, and marked by a plane from its neighbors above and below. Generally these are regional in scale and will have similar physical properties throughout their extent.

Biosolids: Wastewater solids (from municipal sewage treatment plants) rich in nutrients and organic materials that have been treated to a level that allows beneficial recycling on land.

Confined Aquifer: Any saturated and permeable geologic unit which is bound above and below by relatively impermeable geologic units and is filled with water (i.e., saturated) and is under pressure.

Decibels: Unit on a scale used to measure noise.

Ephemeral stream: Any stream which can vary from dry to running with the seasons.

Facies: The physical appearance of a geologic unit used to describe its origins in relation to other units.

Flocculents: Chemical added to wastewater or stormwater to enhance the settling of suspended material such as silt and clay.

Fluvial: Derived from or pertaining to rivers and their processes.

Fugitive dust: Dust emissions caused by dispersion of dust particles by prevailing winds and/or the turbulence caused by moving machinery and trucks.

Glacial: Pertaining to or characteristic of, produced by, or derived from a glacier.

Hydrogeologic unit: A single continuous geologic layer with similar physical properties throughout.

Lacustrine: Derived from or pertaining to lake environments.

Lens: A discontinuous hydrogeologic unit.

Level of service: A measure of the quality of traffic flow. Level of service (LOS) is rated from A to F, with A being the best (free-flow) conditions and F being the worst.

Mass wasting: The tendency of soils to move downhill (either slowly or quickly) due to the influence of gravity, i.e., landslides, soil creep.

Outwash: Sediments deposited by flow of glacial streams beyond the glacier ice. Advance outwash is deposited during the forward movement of a glacial front. Recessional outwash is deposited when the glacial front is retreating.

Overburden: Material of any type (consolidated or unconsolidated) that is above the material of interest.

Perched aquifer or zones: Groundwater separated from an underlying body of groundwater by unsaturated geologic material.

Perching layers: A low permeability lens or bed that supports a perched aquifer.

Pit run operation: A gravel operation where aggregate is processed without the use of water.

Queuing: In the context of traffic analysis, vehicles lined up awaiting a turn or change of traffic signal.

Recharge: The entry into the saturated zone (i.e., aquifers) from surface water infiltration.

Riparian: Pertaining to the banks of a body of water.

Sere: A series of ecological stages formed in succession over time (such as young forest to a mature forest) as a disturbed area regenerates. Seral is the adjective for sere.

Transmissivity: The rate at which water will flow through a unit width of aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient.

Turbidity: A cloudy appearance of water due to the presence of suspended particles.

Unconfined Aquifer: An aquifer in which the water table forms the upper boundary. The water in an unconfined aquifer is not under pressure.

Viewscape/viewshed: The area visible from a designated viewpoint.

Water right application: Application to the Department of Ecology for a water right stating the proposed source, location, volume, and use of waters.

Water right certificate (or Certificated water right): Legal document issued by the Department of Ecology to certify that water users have the authority to use a specific amount of water under certain conditions.

Water right claim: A statement of claim to a water use that began before the State Water Codes were adopted and is not covered by a permit or certificate. A claim may represent a valid water right if it represents surface water use prior to 1917 or a groundwater use prior to 1945.

Water right permit: Permission given to a water right applicant to the state to develop a water right. Water rights are developed when water right applicants follow the provisions outlined in their permit. The permit remains in effect until a water right certificate is issued or the permit has been cancelled.

Water right: A legal authorization to use a certain amount of water for specific beneficial purposes.

Water table: The point at which the zone of saturation meets the zone of aeration, or the point at which hydraulic pressure equals atmospheric pressure. This corresponds to the top of an unconfined or perched aquifer.